

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 14 and 16 to 21, the independent claims being Claims 1 and 11. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled herein. Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 14 and 16 to 18 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated June 18, 2003, Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 9 to 12, 14 and 17 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,488,558 (Ohki), Claims 1 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,362 (Murphy), and Claims 4, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Ohki '558 patent in view of the Murphy '362 patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled herein and Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 14 and 16 to 18 have been amended herein to more clearly recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. In particular, independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite the features of prior dependent Claims 7 and 15. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel image pickup apparatus and method. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an image pickup apparatus including an image sensor, storage means for storing predetermined data, display means for displaying the predetermined data, and designation

means for designating by user input on the predetermined data displayed on the display means an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken. Generation means is provided for automatically starting an image-taking operation when an arbitrary point is designated by user input of the designation means, and for generating link information linking the image taken in the image-taking operation and the arbitrary point designated by the designation means.

In another aspect, independent Claim 11 recites parallel features with respect to a method of controlling an image pickup apparatus.

In each aspect, predetermined data which is desired to be linked is displayed, an arbitrary point which is desired to be linked with an image is designated, a photo-taking operation automatically is started when the arbitrary point is designated by user input, and link information for linking the arbitrary point designated by the user and the image data is generated.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Ohki '558 patent relates to a handy computer with built-in digital camera and spot state recording method using the same, and discloses a computer having an image pickup unit, and means for storing a drawing or map information of a large area which includes a prearranged portion to be inspected, where the prearranged portion to be inspected is specified on the drawing or the map information to thereby calculate positional

data. The positional data is associated with photographed image data of an expected portion which has been photographed by the image pickup unit. However, Applicant submits that the Ohki '558 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Specifically, Applicant submits that the Ohki '558 patent fails to disclose or suggest designation means for designating by user input on predetermined data displayed on a display means an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Nor does the Ohki '558 patent disclose or suggest generation means for automatically starting an image-taking operation when the arbitrary point is designated by the designation means, and for generating link information linking the image taken in the image-taking operation and the arbitrary point designated by the designation means, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The Murphy '362 patent relates to an image recording and display system including first designation means in a recording mode and second designation means in a playback mode. However, Applicant submits that the Murphy '362 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that in the recording mode of the Murphy '362 patent system, a user is not able to designate an arbitrary point to be linked to an image to be taken, or to control the linking of the taken image to the designated point. Moreover, Applicant submits that in the playback mode of the Murphy '362 patent system, although the image system may allow a user to select an icon to effect the display of a linked image, the image system does not allow such user designation to effect the linking of a taken image to a designated

arbitrary point, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Nor is the Murphy '362 patent understood to disclose or suggest the feature of generating means for automatically starting an image-taking operation when an arbitrary point is designated by designation means, and for generating link information linking the image taken in the image-taking operation and the arbitrary point designated by the designation means, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Nor is the Murphy '362 patent understood to add anything to the Ohki '558 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the cited art.

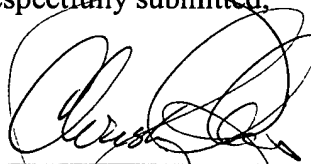
Claims 2 to 6, 8 to 10, 12 to 14 and 16 to 21 depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant request that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the present amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and reduce the number of claims and issues for consideration. Applicant believes the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Official Action, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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